

keeps them from carrying out their convictions, and so turn over to be Neutrals.

Bro. Fearful. While it is well enough for him to sleep at times, it is better he should be awake when Bro. Fast starts out on his bicycle: For he is the only one that can cry loud enough to stop Bro. Fast or cause the moderationists to stop him before he runs himself and others into destruction.

Let us all pray that God may wonderfully bless his cause in the Brethren church in the coming Conference. This He always does for his people when they stand in the place of his commandments.

Let us crucify the flesh, and like our blessed Savior say "not my will but thy will O, God, be done."

And as we meet from far and near let us say, "we come to do thy will O, God." This will bring us together with hearts full of love for one another and his cause.

Again, let us pray for wisdom to do his will. James says, "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth liberally." If we pray in faith, we know God will answer our prayer.

Last, but not least: let the devotional and social part be full and complete. This feature of our Conference is as essential as the air we breathe, to make the meeting a perfect success.

#### PROGRESS.

BY J. A. RIDENOUR.

In the study of the Human race we observe, that it constantly ebbs and flows. Like the mighty ocean, it is never at rest. Whether we consider it as individuals, families, kingdoms or nations, we see them either advancing or retrograding, progressing or receding.

The wealthiest and most highly cultured individuals and families of to-day, have arisen from the humble poor of past generations; and the poor and degenerated families of the present, have descended from the rich the upper classes of the past.

This is not very hard to account for. No excellence in any direction is attainable, without persistent and untiring effort. The poor of the present time, are thrown upon their own re-

sources—a forced industry and economy, they must think and act for themselves—They gladly avail themselves of all the helps within their reach. Their children are educated in the ways of industry, prosperity and usefulness.

They thus continually rise higher socially, politically, morally and financially, until they become the honored and trusted leaders of every branch of society, both social, religious and political. In a few generations they become the wealthy "upper crust of society." They have reached the goal of their ambition.

Their children inherit their wealth, they have been brought up in luxury and ease, they don't know how to battle with the stern realities of life. Pleasure seeking becomes the all absorbing theme with them, they spend their substance in riotous living, become profligate, dissipated, and dead weights to society. Their wealth, honor, character and position gone; they sink to the lowest strata of human degradation.

As a State or Nation can not rise higher than the masses, we see similar changes in their histories. Where is Egypt, Babylon, Greece and Rome? Their glory has departed, and great has been their fall. They were once the pride of the world, and in some of the Sciences and fine arts they were far in advance of the most cultured nations of the present time. But they forgot God, and ignored the fact that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, and that sin is a reproach to any people."

Proud America should take warning. I sometimes think she has about reached the zenith of her wealth and glory. Her leaders are certainly becoming very corrupt. God is not honored as he should be, the church even is made a stepping stone to social position. How few of these who profess Christianity, are the true children of God. How many would endure persecution for righteousness' sake? And how long would they endure it patiently, without turning their backs upon the church, instead of the ungodly persecutors who have crept in it?

It might be a good thing for all of us to know just how much we can endure along that line. Peter did not

know the strength of his faith until he was tried. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation (trials) for when he is tried he shall receive a crown of life."

But a better condition of this world is promised. It may be much nearer than we think. O Lord "May thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Even so Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.  
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#### AN INFIDEL SILENCED.

A noted infidel was travelling in a car in which a minister was seated.

He at once commenced an argument with the clergyman in a loud tone, so as to be heard by other passengers.

Among the latter was a blind man who listened attentively. Turning to him in a pause in the argument, the infidel said: "Do you, sir, believe in a God, who has made this beautiful earth, and the sun to shine upon it, and who has adorned the heavens with myriads of stars, and yet, without any offence on your part, has deprived you for ever of the power of beholding them?"

"I am surprised, my dear sir," replied the man, "that you should ask me such a question. I do believe in the existence of God as firmly as I do in my own, and I could doubt the one as easily as the other. There is, however, one thing that strikes me as being very peculiar in what you have said.

When you reason of God you do not seem to be governed by the same principle as when reasoning about men and the common affairs of every day life."

The infidel denied the inference, and the blind man continued:

"Suppose, on reaching your home, and on entering your room, you find a lighted lamp upon the table—what will be your conclusion?"

"Why," answered the infidel, with a sneer, "I shall conclude that some one placed it there." "Well, then, when you look into the heavens and see those innumerable lights of which you have spoken, why do you not come to the same conclusion, that some intelligent being placed them there?"

The skeptic declined to talk any more on the subject, but it was evident to all the passengers that he felt thoroughly humbled and uncomfortable.

JOHN MITCHELL.